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5-10-04IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: KATO, et al.

Reissue App. No.: 10/060,204

Filed: September 24, 2002

For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS

Group: 3749

Examiner: P. Wilson

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

RESPONSE

Mail Stop Reissue
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 3, 2004

Sir:

The Examiner is thanked for allowance of all claims presently pending in the application, that is, claims 1, 2 and 4-13, as set forth in the last paragraph on page 3 of the Office Action mailed October 3, 2003. While all claims are allowed, the Examiner has not closed prosecution on the merits in the above-identified application. Compare with 37 CFR § 1.97(c).

In this Office Action mailed October 3, 2003, the Examiner has made various formal requirements in connection with the above-identified application, to be satisfied before passing the above-identified application to issue. As will be shown in the following, it is respectfully submitted that the documents being filed concurrently herewith satisfy all formal requirements made by the Examiner, such that the above-identified application should now be passed to issue.

Thus, submitted concurrently herewith is the Original Letters Patent for U.S. Patent No. 6,332,280. In view thereof, it is respectfully submitted that

the requirement for surrender of the original patent, set forth in the last paragraph on page 2 of the Office Action mailed October 3, 2003, has been satisfied.

Comments by the Examiner in the first three paragraphs on page 3 of the Office Action mailed October 3, 2003, are noted. Submitted concurrently herewith is a Statement Under 37 CFR § 3.73(b), including the statement that the person signing the Statement Under 37 CFR § 3.73(b) "is authorized to act on behalf of the assignee". It is further noted that the person signing this Statement is the same person signing the Consent of Assignee submitted September 24, 2002. In view of present submission of the enclosed Statement, it is respectfully submitted that the requirement set forth in the first three paragraphs on page 3 of the Office Action mailed October 3, 2003, has been satisfied.

The undersigned notes the concurrently filed Information Disclosure Statement, containing partial English translations/corresponding English-language documents, of documents in which the Examiner has refused consideration as set forth in the first paragraph on page 2 of the Office Action mailed October 3, 2003. As prosecution on the merits in the above-identified application has not been closed, the presently submitted partial translations/corresponding English-language documents are being submitted with the necessary fee under 37 CFR 1.97(c)/1.17(p). Consideration of the submitted documents is respectfully requested.

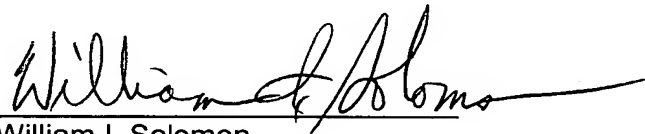
In view of all of the foregoing, passing of the above-identified application to issue, after consideration of the presently submitted documents

(submitted with the concurrently filed Information Disclosure Statement), is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 520.30414R49) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William I. Solomon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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